

becca Ann Stewart, widow of Paul H. Stewart and their three children, Elizabeth, Charles and William, reported the same without amendment :

The said bill was then read the first and by a special order the second time, passed, and sent to the Senate.

Mr. Potter reported a bill entitled, an act to make a certain deed valid, and

Mr. Franklin from the committee on Grievances and Courts of Justice, reported a bill entitled, an act to make valid a certain deed therein mentioned ;

Which were severally read the first, and by a special order the second time, passed and sent to the Senate.

Mr. Wootten, chairman of the committee on Internal Improvement, to which was referred the bill from the Senate entitled, an act to confirm an act of the General Assembly of Virginia entitled, an act incorporating the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, reported the same without amendment ;

The said bill was then read the first and by a special order the second time, passed and returned to the Senate.

Mr. Thomas, of St. Mary's, reported a bill entitled, an act to authorise Edmund J. Plowden, guardian of Henrietta C. Plowden, to bring into this State, certain negroes therein mentioned ;

Which was read the first, and by a special order the second time, passed, and sent to the Senate.

The Speaker laid before the House the following communication from the Register in Chancery :

CHANCERY OFFICE,

February 8th, 1844.

HON. WILLIAM H. WATSON,

*Speaker of the House of Delegates :*

SIR,—In obedience to an order of the House of Delegates of the 5th inst. "requiring the Register in Chancery to communicate to the House of Delegates the number of suits pending in the Chancery court, and the time when they originated."

I have the honor to state after a careful examination of the dockets in this office that there are at this time pending in the court of Chancery, twelve hundred and sixty-eight suits, besides a great number of petitions which have been filed in cases heretofore decided, many of those petitions affect a large amount of property, and present important questions to be decided by the Chancellor whenever the counsel of the parties are prepared to submit them for his action.

If that portion of the order requiring the time when these suits originated, would take but a few days in order to give the information asked for, I would with great pleasure have proceeded in the examination, but as I am well satisfied from the nature and extent of the information called for, that it would be a work of great labor and require several weeks to complete it, and would necessarily interfere very much with my official duties. I have not